

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY**

Meeting Date: February 19, 2003

Division: District 1

Bulk Item: Yes ☐ No ☐

Department: Mayor Dixie M. Spehar

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**AGENDA ITEM WORDING:**

Proclamation to declare March, 2003 as Seagrass Awareness Month.

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**ITEM BACKGROUND:**

The seagrass community of South Florida is the largest seagrass meadow in the world and has helped create and sustain the world class fishing in the Florida Keys and support hundreds of species of fish at various stages of development.

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**PREVIOUS RELEVANT BOCC ACTION:**

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**CONTRACT/AGREEMENT CHANGES:**

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**STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:**

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**TOTAL COST:** \_\_\_\_\_

**BUDGETED:** Yes ☐ No ☐

**COST TO COUNTY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SOURCE OF FUNDS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**REVENUE PRODUCING:** Yes ☐ No ☐ **AMOUNT PER MONTH** \_\_\_\_\_ **Year** \_\_\_\_\_

**APPROVED BY:** County Atty \_\_\_\_\_ OMB/Purchasing \_\_\_\_\_ Risk Management \_\_\_\_\_

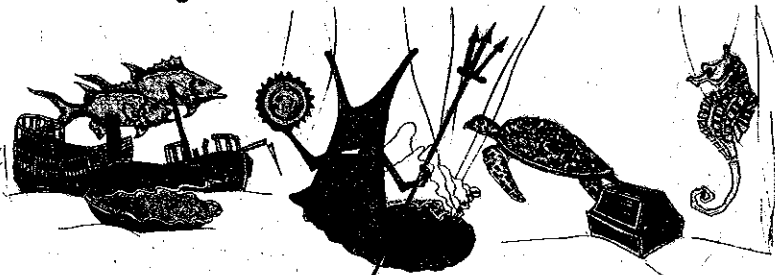
**DIVISION DIRECTOR APPROVAL:**

Dixie M. Spehar  
(TYPE NAME HERE)

**DOCUMENTATION:** Included ☒ To Follow \_\_\_\_\_ Not Required \_\_\_\_\_

**DISPOSITION:** \_\_\_\_\_

**AGENDA ITEM #** CI



## Mayor's Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, the seagrass community of South Florida is the largest seagrass meadow in the world and has helped create and sustain the world class fishing in the Florida Keys; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2001 alone, seagrass communities in Monroe County, Florida supported an estimated harvest of roughly \$35.3 million for six commercial species of fish and shellfish; and

**WHEREAS**, while there are 1.5 million acres of seagrass in Monroe County, Florida over 30,000 acres in South Florida have propeller scars; and

**WHEREAS**, seagrass stabilizes bottom sediments and helps to absorb the excess nutrients from land run-off which can further damage the quality of our waters; and

**WHEREAS**, the seagrass community supports hundreds of species of fish at various stages of their development; and

**WHEREAS**, awareness of the problems facing this vital natural resource will help to create an understanding of the ways seagrass damage can impact both the economic and ecological value of our marine resources.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, by virtue of the power vested in me as Mayor of Monroe County, Florida, I do hereby proclaim March, 2003 as

## SEAGRASS AWARENESS MONTH

**WITNESS** my hand and seal of the County of Monroe, Florida, this 19<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2003.



*Dixie M. Spehar*  
Mayor Dixie M. Spehar